



• INFO memo - April 30, 2004

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City Joins in Saluting BA Teachers

Mayor Richard Carter will proclaim May 3-9 as Teacher Appreciation Week in Broken Arrow when he helps kick off the event Monday at 9 a.m. in the BAHS Media Center.

Purple ribbons will be flying from utility poles throughout the community starting this weekend, and sponsoring organizations and businesses will be displaying banners stating "Teachers Are Terrific." The City is one of the sponsors in the Partners in Education program, which has staged this salute to educators the past several years. The banner will be on display in front of the Community Center in Central Park.

Partners in Education and its members contribute money which is given to the PTA organizations of BA Public Schools. They in turn use that funding to help provide a lunch for teachers. Students also honor their teachers during the week.

City Crews Preparing for Rooster Days

Before the first funnel cake is consumed or the first carnival ride is ridden, many City of Broken Arrow employees will have had their fill of Rooster Days. For many others, the work will just begin on Thursday, May 6, when the Chamber of Commerce event gets underway.

When Rooster Days was moved from the heart of Main Street to Central Park several years ago and expanded from one day and two nights to three nights and two days, the cooperation between the Chamber and City became more important than ever.

Most visible to the public each year are the police who work security for Rooster Days and help with parking in the area of Central Park. There are the firefighters/paramedics who are close at hand if needed. And there are the City workers who help plan the Rooster Days Parade on Saturday morning and get the units from one end of Main to the other with fewest possible problems.

Behind the scenes, however, are many, many employees in Public Works, Inspections and Parks & Recreation who work with the Chamber in being sure

everything is safe and ready to go before Rooster Days begins – and that all is clean and in good repair when it ends.

Police officials feel the visible presence of officers (many of them Reserves) around the carnival area and the stage shows helps prevent problems. Very few incidents have been reported in recent years. Crowds have increased dramatically since the Chamber began bringing in big-name entertainers during the weekend.

Not only is the City continuing a partnership with the Chamber that boosts the relationship between the two, it is making an investment in the economy of the community. Rooster Days has become one of the best known such events in Oklahoma and surrounding states. It has won national and even an international award.

The Community Center is used for arts and crafts and other programs. The City's mobile Showmobile stage is also a key component for entertainment throughout Rooster Days.

The carnival will open Thursday night, along with the food court. Activities begin again Friday evening, and then all day Saturday and Saturday night. The parade will begin at the corner of Main and College and continue down Main to Central Park. Sunday afternoon (Mother's Day) will again be the concluding session.

Gun Locks Available at Rooster Days

Broken Arrow's Police Department will be handing out free gun locks at Rooster Days and in the future at other citywide events. The gun locks are being donated by "Project Childsafe" to the BAPD.

Each safety kit contains educational material on gun safety and the free gun lock. The kits were purchased through a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist for the BAPD, reports the kits will be delivered to the Crime Prevention unit on May 6, just in time for the big weekend.

Dyer Gets Busy in a Hurry

When Claudia Dyer began her duties as Director of the Recreation Division for Parks & Recreation, she didn't have to worry about looking for things to do. April is the time of the year when spring activities either begin or have preparations finalized.

One of the first major challenges for Dyer has been continuation of the registration for swimming lessons. The signups began April 19 and lessons start at the old Central Pool on June 7. Krystal Ridenour is once again aboard to direct that program.

Other events and programs currently going on at the Community Center or Central Park include walking, fitness and conditioning, volleyball leagues, open

volleyball, pickle-ball, open basketball, tennis lessons and child care for the fitness class.

So far, 278 children have enrolled in the learn to swim classes. Those classes are \$40 and include eight lessons in two-week sessions. The classes are 40 minutes in length, except for those for infants and toddlers. Those are only 30 minutes in duration. For information call 259-8436.

This year Central Pool will be used only for the swim lessons. Those two-week sessions are scheduled to run through July 29.

The Family Aquatic Center and new Country Aire pool will open May 29, which starts the Memorial Day weekend. As always, if there is threatening weather in the area, the pools may not open or may close early. The FAC will be closed each Monday during the summer and open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Country Aire (located at 100 N. Fir Ave.) will be closed on Tuesdays and open 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. the other six days of the week.

The Community Center will be busy May 1 and 2 (this Saturday and Sunday) with another of the Hardwood Productions basketball tournaments.

During the job search period before Dyer was hired, Melissa Parker served as the interim director, in addition to her duties as Recreation Center Supervisor. Scott Esmond, P&R Department Director, sent a letter of commendation to Parker, thanking her for “your leadership and hard work over the past four months as the Acting Recreation Division Manager. Your willingness to temporarily take over the management duties made the transitions in the Recreation Division almost flawless. I am appreciative of having you in the Parks & Recreation Department with the skills and professionalism that you exhibit.”

Triathlon Coming to Linear Trails

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, which is just a little west of the new Linear Trails near Washington and Elm will use that paved path for a triathlon scheduled May 22.

Broken Arrow’s trail system continues to grow, with work coming along rapidly on the first phase of the trail along the Creek Turnpike. That section is from Garnett back east toward Aspen. Future phases of the trail will take it along the turnpike route east to County Line Road, beyond, and then north toward the city limits.

City Employees Preparing for Relay for Life

Cancer impacts lives in all corners of America, and Broken Arrow’s City employees are no different. Again this year City teams will be participating in the Broken Arrow Relay for Life, which will be held June 4 and 5 at South Intermediate High School’s track.

Rory Beel of the Police Department is a team captain for the City and has been organizing efforts of employees. Relay for Life will be held from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

and will include several teams from businesses and organizations around the community.

Funds raised will go to support American Cancer Society research programs.

Teams will have members on the track all night, and those not on the track walking will be playing games, cooking food, eating food, singing, etc.

The City has had teams participate in the event each year.

Free Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday

A call for rain may dampen some of the trash, but not the spirit of Broken Arrowans who annually take advantage of the City's Free Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday (May 1).

From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City's Maintenance Center will be open to any BA resident with trucks or trailers loaded with yard trash and normal trash items. The Center is located at 1700 W. Detroit (behind and south of Rhema). Signs will be posted on area streets to point the way.

No hazardous waste of any kind will be accepted, including (but not limited to) oil, paint, batteries, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc. Nor will the dumping of roofing or materials from remodeling be permitted, nor bags of dirt and rocks be permitted.

But old furniture items, tree limbs, brush, etc., will be taken in and hauled off by City trucks to a landfill area.

This will be the second part of an annual program sponsored by the City and the City Council to encourage citizens to keep their homes and neighborhoods "dressed up" for the spring and summer seasons. From April 12 through April 24, City utilities customers were given the opportunity to pick up 200 free plastic trash bags each at the Maintenance Center. Those type bags are required for curbside pickup in Broken Arrow.

Dave Wooden, Director of Public Works, reports that 19,895 customers came by during those two weeks, taking home a total of 3,979,000 plastic trash bags. That tops the mark of 18,910 and 3,782,000 of 2003.

In another show of support for a clean city, the City Councilors last Saturday (April 24) cleaned up their adopted mile (Main Street from Houston to Kenosha).